

Arkansas Insurance Department

Mike Huckabee
Governor



Julie Benafield Bowman
Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pocahontas Woman Guilty of Insurance Fraud

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS (November 22, 2006) — State Insurance Commissioner Julie Benafield Bowman announced that Carolyn Dixon, the owner of Dixon Insurance in Pocahontas, entered a negotiated plea of guilty to two counts of Insurance Fraud (Class D felony) and one count of Theft by Deception (Class A misdemeanor) in Randolph County Circuit Court on October 30, 2006. Ms. Dixon was sentenced to twelve months probation and ordered to pay \$2,336.50 in restitution, a \$500.00 fine, a \$250.00 Public Defender's fee, and \$150.00 in court costs. The plea was negotiated by Richard Castleman, the Randolph County Deputy Prosecutor.

Dixon was accused of altering declaration pages, invoices, and other documents provided to clients to falsely reflect higher charges than were actually charged by the insurance broker, carriers, and finance companies in order to charge her clients higher fees. In addition, she was accused of filing an inflated claim with her insurance carrier for repairs to her office and of knowingly employing a person convicted of a felony involving dishonesty in her insurance business without the written consent of the Insurance Commissioner as required by law.

Arkansas Insurance Department Criminal Investigation Division Investigator, Jacquie Harper, successfully investigated Ms. Dixon. The Department currently has seven investigators

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who are dedicated to investigating insurance fraud. If you know or suspect an instance of insurance fraud, you can contact the division at its toll free hotline (866) 660-0888. To learn more about the Criminal Investigation Division, please visit its website at www.fightfraud.arkansas.gov.